

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 204779 TOSEC 100241

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SP

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR ALBA'S IDEAS ON APPROACH TO BASE
NEGOTIATIONS

1. AMBASSADOR ALBA CALLED AMB. MCCLOSKEY AUGUST 27
TO ADVANCE IDEA THAT BASE NEGOTIATIONS NOW AT POINT
WHEN CORTINA AND THE SECRETARY SHOULD MEET. ALBA
ALLUDED TO CONTACTS WITH ROVIRA WHILE ON HIS
RECENT LEAVE IN SPAIN WHICH IN HIS VIEW INDICATED THAT
CORTINA-KISSINGER MEETING SHOULD BE SCHEDULED PERHAPS
FOR FIRST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER.

2. WE EXPLAINED THAT THIS IDEA WAS NOT CONSISTENT WITH
OUR UNDERSTANDING OF SITUATION AS WE LEFT IT WITH
ROVIRA AT END OF LAST ROUND. AT THAT POINT IT APPEARED
THAT BOTH SIDES AGREED ON UTILITY OF ANOTHER NEGOTIATING
ROUND BEFORE ADDRESSING QUESTION OF MEETING OF PRINCIPALS.
AMB. MCCLOSKEY HAS ALREADY INFORMED SECRETARY OF THIS AGREED

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APPROACH. WE NOTED FURTHER THAT SECRETARY'S MIDDLE

EAST EFFORTS AND OTHER SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES WOULD SEEM TO RULE OUT ANY EARLY MEETING.

3. WE ARE NOT CLEAR WHETHER ALBA WAS ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS OR OFFERING A PERSONAL VIEW, BUT WE BELIEVE DELEGATIONS SHOULD MEET AGAIN BEFORE WE COULD RECOMMEND THAT SECRETARY SEE CORTINA. IF SUBJECT OF EARLY MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY RAISED WITH YOU, YOU MAY DRAW ON PARA 2 ABOVE TO RESPOND.

4. MEANWHILE, YOU SHOULD SEEK EARLY CONFIRMATION FROM ROVIRA THAT THE THREE SPANISH FACILITIES OPTIONS PRESENTED AD REFERENDUM AT CLOSING PLENARY OF LAST ROUND MAY NOW BE TREATED BY US DELEGATION AS CLEARED SPANISH POSITIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PREPARING FOR NEXT ROUND.

5. WE WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING OUTCOME AT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING ON AUGUST 22, AT WHICH ROVIRA SAID HE WOULD INFORM THE MINISTERS OF OUR INTEREST IN DEVISING SOME MEANS TO EXTEND THE NEGOTIATING PERIOD BEYOND SEPTEMBER 26. HE PROMISED TO PRESENT OUR DRAFT LANGUAGE. INGERSOLL

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